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the name of justice challenging wealth and station. Those Gentile citizens should not remain unhonored who have turned the light of civilization upon the darkest place in our land.

Without having read, probably without having heard of Milton, Brigham Young was a believer in the sentiment of *Comus* that "'Tis only daylight that makes sin." In the Endowment House the curtains were down. Yet Utah's hills and woods have reported its sealings and its revels. A little while and its orgies will be ended. Judge Daskin's book is an excellent supplement to the works of Kennedy, of Bancroft, and of Linn.

Cartas y otros Documentos de Hernán Cortés novisimamente descubiertos en el Archivo General de Indias de la Ciudad de Sevilla. By P. Mariano Cuevas, S. J. Sevilla; Imprente de F. Diaz y Comp., 1915. Pp. vii+356.

The Discovery and Conquest of America form one of the most thrilling episodes in the history of the world. When Columbus sighted the West Indies for the first time, he inaugurated a period of adventure which was not only to be the chief characteristic of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries but also one which would far outshine the Crusades in glory and in the extent of their endeavor. No race found their objective ideals of all that is high and noble and chivalrous more clearly defined in the Conquest than did the Spaniards of Charles V's reign and of that of his son, Philip II. Dreams of a Spanish empire which would outrival that of the Caesars filled the brooding spirit of the nation, and every man with the rich red blood of Spain in his heart felt the awakening of the great enterprise of conquest across the seas. Among these numerous adventurous dreamers who flocked to the New World was one whose name was to outshine all the rest—the conqueror of the wondrous empire of the Aztecs, Don Hernán Cortés. The story of the great conqueror's life is too well known to need recapitulation. When he was born in 1485—that historic year of the Bosworth Field, the Christian world was aglow with both the good and the bad of the Revival of Learning. Spain was not the last among the nations of Europe to catch the spirit of its larger visioning, and high above all the literary triumphs of the day was hung, as a trophy of man's grandeur, the daring courage which had led one of Italy's

sons under the banner of Spain to open to man's craving desire far broader fields of activity. It was hard in those days to keep the young men—boys they were in reality, boys of fourteen like Cortés himself—at their desks in the universities; and Salamanca was too near to Palos and too near to the Mother City of the Western world, Seville, for them to sit quietly under their masters, when deeds greater than any dreamed of in the Middle Ages remained to be done across the Atlantic. Cortés felt this wanderlust in the air of Spain, and at nineteen he was on his way to Hispañola. From this year, 1504, to the end of the Conquest twenty years later, his life was cast in an heroic mould, and he emerged one of Nature's best offerings to the throng of Immortals whose names are lisped in the schools today by children who dream dreams as they did, and who see in their triumphs incentives to build castles of desire with firmer foundations than the airy clouds of Spain. The principal work of Cortés is undoubtedly the Conquest of Mexico. The story of that achievement has occupied some of the ablest pens ever put to history—Diaz, Gómara, Herrera, Solis, Robertson, Lorrenzana, Navarrete, and Prescott. One wonders whether anything remained to be said of their hero. And yet Don Pascual de Gayangos, in his *Cartes y Relaciones de Hernán Cortés* (Paris, 1866), asserted that the Spanish Archives still contained many documents relative to the illustrious Conquistador which had not yet been published. George Folsom published at London, in 1853, his well-known work: *The Dispatches of Hernando Cortes, the Conqueror of Mexico, addressed to the Emperor Charles V. Written during the Conquest and containing a narrative of its events. Now first translated into English from the original Spanish.* There were also many other documents published in such Collections as those of Icazbalceta, Navarrete, and Polavieja, and in the series *Colleción de documentos ineditos*, which were taken for the most part from the Royal Archives at Madrid; but it was for a son of Mexico herself, Father Mariano Cuevas, S.J., whose first publication, entitled *Documentos ineditos del siglo XVI para la Historia de Mexico* (Mexico, 1914), brought him to the notice of scholars all over Europe and America, to discover some forty new documents in that *riquisimo mar*, the Archivo General de Indias of Seville, which throw a flood of new light upon the life and activities of Cortés from 1520 to 1546. The volume is edited

well and shows evident signs of the methods taught by Alfred Cauchie at the University of Louvain, where Father Cuevas finished his historical training. In a valuable series of Appendices, there is published for the first time the *Relacion descriptiva del Valle de Oaxaca*, by Bartholomew de Zarate, written in 1544. Copious explanatory notes follow the documents; and the value of these is augmented by biographical notes of the principal personages mentioned in this splendid Collection. The fortunate discovery of these documents will place all future Mexican historical scholars under deep obligation to their compatriot. Cortés can be seen in these letters in even a better light than recent research has placed him. It is the reverent and loving son, the kind father, the affectionate friend, the loyal vassal of his king, and the staunch Christian heart of the man which appear on every page. It is the humble Catholic who exclaims, in the midst of the persecutions his enemies have brought upon him: "Per todo doy gracias á Dios que quiere pagarse en esto de muchas ofensas que yo le he hecho. El tenga por bien que sea así para esta cuenta." Nobility of purpose, lofty ideals, unswerving rectitude—these are the echoes from these living pages of the past, and they tell us more than we ever knew before of the man and soldier who wrote to his king that it would be better—but let us have the force of it in his own words—"y sera mejor perder la hacienda que el ánima!"

The Life of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O. By Beckles Willson, author of "The Great Fur Company," etc. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1916. 2 vols. Pp. xiii+427, 446.

Few men, Imperial or Canadian, have figured more prominently on the stage of Canadian life and have played such a rounded and successful rôle as the subject of these two volumes, Donald A. Smith (Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal). Of him it may indeed be said, in the words of Tennyson, that throughout his long life of fourscore years and fourteen, "he grasped the skirts of happy Chance" and fought with, and not against, his stars. From his humble birth in 1820, in the quaint little Scottish town of Forres, mentioned in Shakespeare's tragedy of *Macbeth*, until Donald A. Smith laid down the burden of life